

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A clonal strain of attenuated vaccinia virus comprising a nucleotide sequence that is at least 95% ~~substantially~~ identical to the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:2, wherein the strain is an isolated variant of ACAM1000 or ACAM2000.

2. (Currently Amended) The clonal strain of claim 1, wherein said strain comprises a nucleotide sequence that is at least 98% ~~70%~~ identical to the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:2.

3. (Currently Amended) The clonal strain of claim 2, wherein said strain comprises a nucleotide sequence that is at least 99% ~~80%~~ identical to the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:2.

4. (Currently Amended) The clonal strain of claim 3, wherein said strain comprises a nucleotide sequence that is at least 99.5% ~~90%~~ identical to the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:2.

5. (Currently Amended) The clonal strain of claim 4, wherein said strain comprises a nucleotide sequence that is at least 99.9% ~~95%~~ identical to the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:2.

6. (Currently Amended) The clonal strain of claim 5, wherein said strain comprises a nucleotide sequence that is at least 99.995% ~~98%~~ identical to the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:2.

7. (Currently Amended) A clonal strain of attenuated vaccinia virus comprising a nucleotide sequence that is identical to ~~hybridizes to the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:2,~~ a fragment of SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:2, or the complement of SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:2, wherein the fragment has the sequence of SEQ ID NO:244, and the clonal strain is an isolated variant of ACAM1000 or ACAM2000, comprising a nucleotide sequence that is at least 95% identical to SEQ ID NO:2 ~~under highly stringent conditions.~~

8 and 9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) The ~~[[A]]~~ clonal strain of attenuated vaccinia virus of claim 7, comprising one or up to 235 polypeptides having amino acid sequences that are ~~substantially~~ identical to those encoded by the sequences of SEQ ID NOs:1 or 2, or the complements thereof.

11. (Currently Amended) The clonal strain of claim 10, wherein said clonal strain comprises 235 polypeptides having amino acid sequences that are ~~substantially~~ identical to those encoded by the sequences of SEQ ID NOs:1 or 2, or the complements thereof.

12. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the clonal strain of vaccinia virus of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

13. (Withdrawn) A method of preventing or treating variola virus infection in a patient, said method comprising administering to the patient the pharmaceutical composition of claim 12.

14. (New) The clonal strain of attenuated vaccinia virus of claim 7, wherein the clonal strain comprises a nucleotide sequence that is at least 98% identical to SEQ ID NO:2.

15. (New) The clonal strain of attenuated vaccinia virus of claim 14, wherein the clonal strain comprises a nucleotide sequence that is at least 99% identical to SEQ ID NO:2.

16. (New) The clonal strain of attenuated vaccinia virus of claim 15, wherein the clonal strain comprises a nucleotide sequence that is at least 99.5% identical to SEQ ID NO:2.

17. (New) The clonal strain of attenuated vaccinia virus of claim 16, wherein the clonal strain comprises a nucleotide sequence that is at least 99.9% identical to SEQ ID NO:2.

18. (New) The clonal strain of attenuated vaccinia virus of claim 17, wherein the clonal strain comprises a nucleotide sequence that is at least 99.995% identical to SEQ ID NO:2.

19. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 12, wherein said pharmaceutical composition consists of a clonal strain of attenuated vaccinia virus comprising a nucleotide sequence that is at least 95% identical to the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:2, wherein the strain is an isolated variant of ACAM1000 or ACAM2000, and one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers or diluents.

20. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 19, wherein the clonal strain of attenuated vaccinia virus comprises a nucleotide sequence that is at least 98% identical to the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:2, wherein the strain is an isolated variant of ACAM1000 or ACAM2000.

21. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 20, wherein the clonal strain of attenuated vaccinia virus comprises a nucleotide sequence that is at least 99.5% identical to the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:2, wherein the strain is an isolated variant of ACAM1000 or ACAM2000.

22. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 21, wherein the clonal strain of attenuated vaccinia virus comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:2.

23. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an isolated clonal strain of attenuated vaccinia virus, wherein the isolated clonal strain of attenuated vaccinia virus is ACAM1000 (ATCC Deposit No. PTA-3321).

24. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an isolated clonal strain of attenuated vaccinia virus that is obtained from cell cultures in which ACAM1000 (ATCC Deposit No. PTA-3321) has been propagated.